

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A keypad defining both exposed valley keys[[ (14)]] and exposed hill keys [[ (12)]] elevated above the valley keys,  
the hill keys [[ (12)]] having a nominal effective key width (~~H~~) substantially equal to a nominal effective key width [[ (V)]] of the valley keys.
2. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 1 wherein at least many of the hill keys [[ (12)]] are each associated with a corresponding hill key [[ (12)]], such that adjacent pairs of the hill keys[[ (12)]] and connecting regions[[ (37)]] form elongated dual keys[[ (16)]].
3. (Canceled).
4. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~ wherein the connecting region[[ (37)]] is in the form of a locally elevated bridge.
5. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 4 wherein the bridge narrows, as viewed normal to the keypad, to form a waist[[ (38)]] between the adjacent hill keys[[ (12)]].
6. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 4 ~~or claim 5~~ wherein the bridge slopes downward toward its midpoint to form a saddle[[ (36)]] between the adjacent hill keys[[ (12)]].
7. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of claims~~ claim 2 through 6 wherein at least many of the dual keys[[ (16)]] have left sides[[ (32)]] and right sides[[ (34)]] with different identifying labels.

8. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of claims~~ claim 2 through 7 wherein the dual keys[[ (16)]] overlay electrical traces[[ (28)]] of a circuit board[[ (30)]] and are associated with conductive actuators[[ (40)]] normally spaced apart from the electrical traces[[ (28)]] and brought into electrical contact with the traces when their associated hill keys[[ (12)]] are depressed.

9. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 8 wherein each dual key[[ (16)]] is associated with only one, elongated actuator[[ (40)]].

10. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 9 wherein the elongated actuator[[ (40)]] has a lower surface curved along its length.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 8 wherein at least many dual keys[[ (16)]] are each associated with a pair of actuators[[ (40)]], each of the pair of actuators underlying one of the pair of hill keys[[ (12)]] of the dual key[[ (16)]].

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of claims~~ claim 12 through 14 wherein at least many dual keys[[ (16)]] are each associated with a pair of tactile feedback elements[[ (48)]], each of the pair of feedback elements underlying one of the pair of hill keys[[ (12)]] of the dual key[[ (16)]].

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of claims~~ claim 2 through 16 wherein each dual key[[ (16)]] is configured as a rigid key structure[[ (80)]] displaceable as a unit with respect to an underlying circuit board[[ (30)]].

18-19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 17 wherein the dual keys[[ (16)]] are disposed in alternating rows separated by rows of valley keys[[ (14)]].

21. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of claims~~ claim 2 through 20 wherein adjacent pairs of valley keys[[ (14)]] are structurally linked such that displacing one of the valley keys[[ (14)]] of the pair of valley keys toward an underlying circuit board[[ (30)]] displaces the other of the valley keys[[ (14)]] of the pair of valley keys away from the circuit board.

22. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 21 wherein each pair of valley keys[[ (14)]] includes a lever spanning the pair of valley keys and pivotable about a pivot point[[ (86)]] between the spanned valley keys[[ (14)]].

[[19]]23-[[21]]25. (Canceled).

[[22]]26. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of claims~~ claim 2 through 16 further comprising pivotable members[[ (84)]]-each spanning two hill keys[[ (12)]] of different dual keys [[(16)]], and a valley key[[ (14)]], such that displacing one of the spanned hill keys[[ (12)]] toward an underlying circuit board[[ (30)]] displaces the other of the spanned hill keys[[ (12)]] away from the circuit board.

[[23]]27. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1 wherein exposed surfaces of the valley keys[[ (14)]] are convex.

[[24]]28. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~through 23~~ wherein the valley keys[[ (14)]] comprise locally elevated regions that are recessed with respect to the hill keys[[ (12)]].

[[25]]29. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1 wherein centers of adjacent valley keys[[ (14)]] are spaced apart by a distance of less than about six millimeters.

[[26]]30. (Canceled).

[[27]]31. (Canceled).

[[28]]32. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1 with a row of key labels arranged to read, from left to right, Q-W-E-R-T-Y.

[[29]]33. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1 wherein the hill keys[[ (12)]] provide a corresponding output when individually pressed, and wherein the valley keys[[ (14)]] are labeled to correspond with an output that results at least from the simultaneous or near-simultaneous manipulation of a predetermined set of two or more hill keys [[(12)]] adjacent the valley key[[ (14)]].

[[30]]34. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1 wherein only the hill keys[[ (12)]] provide an electrical response when actuated, the outputs corresponding to labels of the valley keys[[ (14)]] being derived only from combinations of electrical responses from actuation of adjacent hill keys[[ (12)]].

[[31]]35. (Currently Amended) The keypad of ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1 wherein the valley keys[[ (14)]] are algorithmically associated with adjacent hill keys[[ (12)]].

[[32]]36. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim[[ 31]] 35 wherein key output is determined both from individual switch activation and from combined activation of adjacent switches.

[[33]]37. (Currently Amended) An electronic device having a keypad of ~~any of the above claims~~ claim 1 wherein the hill keys[[ (12)]]-each provide a corresponding output when individually pressed, and wherein the valley keys[[ (14)]] each provide an output that overrides any simultaneous or near-simultaneous manipulation of any one hill key[[ (12)]] adjacent the valley key[[ (14)]]].

38. (New) A keypad defining both exposed valley keys and exposed hill keys elevated above the valley keys,

wherein at least many of the hill keys are each functionally associated with a corresponding hill key, with adjacent pairs of the hill keys and connecting regions of the keypad forming elongated dual keys.

39. (New) The keypad of claim 38 wherein adjacent pairs of valley keys are structurally linked such that displacing one of the valley keys of the pair of valley keys toward an underlying circuit board displaces the other of the valley keys of the pair of valley keys away from the circuit board.

40. (New) The keypad of claim 38 wherein exposed surfaces of the valley keys are convex.

41. (New) The keypad of 38 wherein the valley keys comprise locally elevated regions that are recessed with respect to the hill keys.

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Serial No. : To Be Assigned  
Filed : Herewith  
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42. (New) The keypad of claim 38 wherein the hill keys provide a corresponding output when individually pressed, and wherein the valley keys are labeled to correspond with an output that results at least from the simultaneous or near-simultaneous manipulation of a predetermined set of two or more hill keys adjacent the valley key.